

# WHERE DO YOUR UNION DUES GO?

## A LOOK AT NEA SPENDING IN 2021-2022



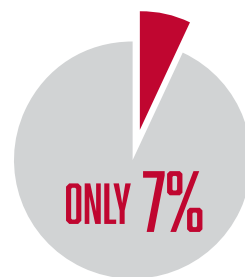
## AMERICANS FOR FAIR TREATMENT

The **National Education Association (NEA)**, which represents over 2.8 million teachers throughout the country, has taken an increasingly prominent role in political and cultural debates since the COVID-19 pandemic. As a labor union that represents both public- and private-sector employees, the NEA files a Form LM-2 financial disclosure with the United States Department of Labor. An examination of the union's finances can help explain its political priorities.

The union is in a solid financial position, holding over \$393 million in assets and only \$63 million in liabilities. **Since 2020, the NEA's net financial position has decreased by more than \$58 million.** Membership is down too; the NEA has lost 103,000 members since 2020, including 37,000 between 2021 and 2022.

Despite significant membership losses, NEA's revenue has not decreased. The union brought in just over \$608 million during the latest reporting period (September 2021 to August 2022), up by about \$5 million since 2020. Why did this happen? The NEA increased membership dues from \$196 per year to \$204 per year, helping the union retain revenue while membership decreased. If membership losses continue, NEA members can expect to see increasing dues.

Dues are the main source of revenue for the union, accounting for about 62% of total revenue. Most remaining revenue comes from the sale of investments and fixed assets—things like stocks, bonds, and index funds. In the 2021-2022 reporting period, NEA sold \$214 million worth of Bank of America securities.



**ONLY 7%**  
of union spending was directed toward assisting members

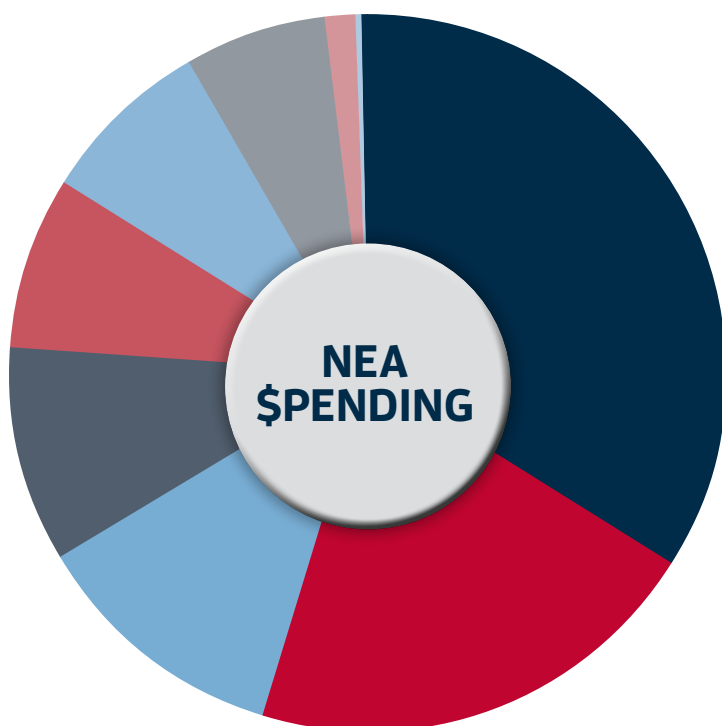


**\$49M**  
spent on politics in 2021-2022

## WHO IS GETTING YOUR NEA DUES MONEY?

The NEA spent over \$572 million during its 2021-2022 fiscal year, down more than \$40 million from 2020-2021. The largest expense was the purchase of investments and fixed assets. These expenditures totaled \$197 million, or 35% of all expenditures. The largest investment purchase was over \$180 million in Bank of America securities.

Union employee salaries, benefits, and operating expenses were the second largest category, accounting for nearly 30% of all expenditures during the 2021-2022 reporting period. Representational activities, the category most closely related to labor representation, only accounted for 6.6% of expenses in 2021-22. **President Rebecca Pringle earned \$449,537 last year**, about 8 times more than the average public-school teacher. Other top earners include Secretary Treasurer Noel Candelaria (\$392,899) and Vice President Princess Moss (\$378,894).



- 34% PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS AND FIXED ASSETS
- 21% CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS
- 12% GENERAL OVERHEAD
- 10% UNION EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
- 8% UNION ADMINISTRATION
- 7% POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND LOBBYING
- 7% REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- 1% DIRECT TAXES
- 4% ON BEHALF OF AFFILIATES FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THEM
- .2% TOTAL WITHHELD BUT NOT DISBURSED

# HOW WERE NEA DUES SPENT ON POLITICS?

Spending on political activities and lobbying totaled \$41.5 million in 2021-2022, **about \$3.5 million more than the union spent on membership representation**. However, this category does not capture all political spending. As an example, a \$6 million contribution to the State Engagement Fund, a left-wing dark money organization, was classified as a contribution rather than political spending. In total, the NEA spent about \$49.2 million on politics.

The *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme Court decision relieves nonmembers from the obligation to pay any dues or fees to the union as a condition of public employment. However, for teachers who remain members of the NEA, *Janus* changes nothing about how union dues are spent: they are still routinely used for political purposes. In 2022, the NEA's giving included the following:



- \$13M** to the NEA Advocacy Fund, a super PAC started and run by the NEA.
- \$7.8M** to state and local affiliates to support their political activity.
- \$7M** to NEA officers and employees as compensation for their political and lobbying activities.
- \$6M** to the State Engagement Fund, a progressive advocacy organization that is part of a larger network called "Democracy Alliance" that funds left-wing candidates and issues.
- \$3.2M** to Education International, a global alliance of teachers unions.
- \$3M** to Fair Share Massachusetts, a progressive advocacy organization that advocated for the millionaire's tax in Massachusetts.
- \$2.5M** to the For Our Future Action Fund, which seeks to build a progressive infrastructure to help Democrats win elections throughout the country.
- \$500K** to No Tax Cut for the Super Rich, a progressive advocacy organization focused on statewide ballot measures in Washington.
- \$500K** to Building Back Together, a left-wing group dedicated to advancing President Biden's progressive agenda.
- \$485K** to Emerging American Majorities, a group that provides support to state Democratic Party organizations and advocacy groups for state legislative campaigns.
- \$450K** to the Strategic Victory Fund, a superPAC that funnels money from donors to Democratic Party candidates and causes.
- \$424K** to the AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer in support of the AFL-CIO's ballot initiative programs.
- \$375K** to Every Eligible American, a left-wing voting rights advocacy organization.
- \$300K** to America Votes, a coordination hub of the progressive community that motivates activists and voters to win elections and change election law.
- \$300K** to Coloradans for the Common Good, a group of left-leaning congregations, unions, educational institutions, nonprofits, and neighborhood organizations.
- \$286K** to State Power Fund, a progressive organization that uses the race class narrative to advocate for left-wing economic policies.
- \$270K** to Democracy Alliance, an invitation-only network of progressive donors who pay annual dues and agree to give a set amount of money each year to endorsed organizations.
- \$250K** to Main Street Advocacy, a by-product of Republican Main Street Partnership, a group of centrist Republicans.
- \$250K** to ProgressNow Education, the 501c(3) affiliate of left-wing ProgressNow group.

- \$250K** to Win Minnesota, a left-wing advocacy organization dedicated to helping elect Democratic governors in Minnesota.
- \$225K** to the State Innovation Exchange, an organization that creates and advocates for progressive, state-level legislation.
- \$200K** to PowerSwitch Action, a progressive feminist group of 21 organizations.
- \$180K** to Yes on the Children's Amendment, an organization that supported a New Mexico ballot initiative that increased pre-K funding.
- \$180K** to the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center, which advances progressive causes through ballot initiatives.
- \$165K** to Citizens that Support Maine's Public Schools, a progressive education advocacy organization that opposes fiscally responsible policies like the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.
- \$150K** to the Progressive Caucus Action Fund, the advocacy arm of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which is chaired by Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA).
- \$150K** to Parents Together Action, a left-of-center organization that pressures companies to change their policies and support left-wing political causes.
- \$150K** to EMILY's List, an organization dedicated to electing Democratic, pro-choice women to public office.
- \$125K** to the Progressive State Leaders Committee, a group that advocates for progressive causes with a focus on state attorneys general.
- \$100K** to the Education Law Center, a nonprofit funded by teachers unions that seeks to secure public school funding through litigation.
- \$100K** to March for Our Lives, a gun-control advocacy group.
- \$50K** to the Center for American Progress, a national progressive advocacy organization established by Clinton family associate John Podesta.
- \$50K** to the Sixteen Thirty Fund, a progressive organization that spends untraceable money to boost Democratic candidates and causes and is part of the larger "Arabella" network, which channels hundreds of millions of dollars to progressive causes.
- \$25K** for the Committee on States, the state government-focused arm of Democracy Alliance.
- \$23K** to the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education, a political committee run by the NEA that primarily supports Democratic candidates for public office.

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